

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4176

S E C R E T CAIRO 5231

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (RIEGLE, DONALD)

SUBJECT: CODEL RIEGLE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT

1. SUMMARY: REP RIEGLE MET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT (VP MUBARAK WAS ALSO PRESENT) MAY 24 AND ENGAGED IN DETAILED DISCUSSION ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION, SOVIET ROLE IN ME INCLUDING ARMS DEAL WITH LIBYA, PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND IMPORTANCE OF US POLICY REASSESSMENT. SADAT ASKED RIEGLE TO ASSURE CONGRESS SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS ABLY AND FAITHFULLY REPRESENTING US NATIONAL INTERESTS.

2. CONGRESSMAN DONALD W. RIEGLE, ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE AND EMBOFF, SPENT NEARLY ONE HOUR IN DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AT THE BARRAGES MAY 24. VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK ALSO ATTENDED MEETING.

3. SADAT SAID THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE STILL IN A STATE OF CONFUSION. THEY ARE STILL TALKING ABOUT SECURITY IN TERMS OF TERRITORY; THIS IS NOT VALID AFTER OCTOBER WAR. ISRAELIS FEAR PEACE.

4. SADAT THEN COMMENTED ON AN INTERVIEW HE HAD JUST GIVEN TO ITALIAN TELEVISION IN WHICH HE WAS ASKED ABOUT EFFECT KISSINGER ASWAN MISSION HAD

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ON US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. HE DECLARED THERE WAS

NO EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS, STATING THAT  
"HENRY DID THE BEST HE COULD."

5. SADAT THEN NOTED THAT, IF THERE WERE NO  
SPECIFIC, CLEAR-CUT POSITION TAKEN BY THE UNITED  
STATES AS A RESULT OF ITS POLICY REASSESSMENT,  
THIS WILL BE VERY HARMFUL TO US INTERESTS IN  
THE ARAB WORLD. HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH  
PRESIDENT FORD.

6. SADAT SAID THAT, BY REJECTING THE KISSINGER  
MISSION, ISRAEL HAD INCREASED THE IMPORTANCE OF  
THE SOVIET ROLE IN THE ME AREA. HE DESCRIBED HOW  
SOVIETS HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION  
BY CONCLUDING RECENT ARMS AGREEMENT WITH LIBYANS.  
DEAL AMOUNT TO FOUR BILLION LIBYAN POUNDS OR 12  
BILLION DOLLARS AND WILL GIVE THE SOVIETS FREE  
ACCESS TO TWO THOUSAND MILES OF MEDITERRANEAN  
COASTLINE, INCLUDING NAVAL BASE AT TOBRUK.  
SADAT SAID SOVIETS ARE GIVING LIBYANS MORE  
SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS THAN THEY EVER GAVE TO  
SYRIANS. LIBYANS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAN THESE  
ARMS THEMSELVES.

7. US POLICY REASSESSMENT THEREFORE ASSUMED EVEN  
GREATER IMPORTANCE NOW. RIEGLE ASKED SADAT WHAT  
HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN SUCH A STATEMENT OF  
AMERICAN POLICY. SADAT REPLIED THAT, FIRST OF ALL,  
AMERICA SHOULD STATE IT DID NOT SUPPORT ISRAELI  
CONQUESTS. SADAT THEN MADE CERTAIN COMMENTS ABOUT  
SALZBURG SUMMIT WHICH ARE REPORTED SEPARATELY.

8. RIEGLE THEN ASKED HOW PALESTINIAN PROBLEM  
WOULD BE SOLVED. SADAT SAID THAT PALESTINIANS  
SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY US. THIS WOULD  
ENCOURAGE MODERATES AMONG THEM. IN RESPONSE TO  
INQUIRY ABOUT THEIR ESTABLISHING POSSIBLE  
GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE, SADAT REPLIED THAT HE HAD  
SUGGESTED THIS THREE YEARS AGO AND, IF PALESTINIANS  
HAD TAKEN HIS ADVICE, THEY WOULD HAVE GAINED  
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INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AFTER THE OCTOBER 1973  
WAR. PALESTINIANS HAVE SUCH DIFFERENCES THAT  
THERE IS A DILEMMA. SADAT STATED THAT  
PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE GIVEN STATE IN WEST  
BANK AND GAZA WITH A CORRIDOR ACROSS. WHEN THEY  
HAVE THEIR OWN STATE, THEY WILL HAVE TO SHOULD  
RESPONSIBILITY. MOREOVER, THEY CANNOT EXIST  
WITHOUT OUTSIDE HELP FROM ARAB COUNTRIES

WHO WILL BE ABLE TO PUT PRESSURE ON THEM.

9. RIEGLE ASKED HOW THE PALESTINIANS WOULD BE REPRESENTED IN GENEVA. SADAT SAID THAT EGYPT, JORDAN, SYRIA AND THE PALESTINIANS WILL MEET AFTER SALZBURG TO DECIDE THIS. HE PREFERRED ONE ARAB DELEGATION FACING ONE ISRAELI DELEGATION, BUT THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE. PALESTINIANS WILL GO EITHER SEPARATELY OR AS MEMBER OF OTHER DELEGATIONS. HOWEVER, ARABS WILL NOT LET ISRAELIS USE THIS ISSUE TO BLOCK CONFERENCE.

10. RIEGLE THEN MENTIONED RECENT LETTER SUPPORTING ISRAEL SIGNED BY 76 US SENATORS. RIEGLE SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MISTAKE TO LOOK UPON LETTER AS BEING DIRECTED AGAINST EGYPT. RATHER IT SERVED ONLY TO INDICATE CONTINUING SENATE SUPPORT FOR SECURITY FOR ISRAEL.

11. SADAT CONCLUDED DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT HE WANTS CONGRESS TO KNOW THAT HE BELIEVES KISSINGER IS CARRYING OUT US NATIONAL INTERESTS IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY, AND THAT, ABOVE ALL, HE IS MAN OF HIS WORD. HE HAS NEVER PROMISED ANYTHING HE DID NOT DELIVER.

12. RIEGLE THANKED PRESIDENT FOR RECEIVING HIM AND ASSURED HIM THERE WERE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, OF WHICH HE WAS ONE, WHO WERE SENSITIVE TO EGYPT'S PROBLEMS AND WHO HOPED TO SEE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP DEVELOP BETWEEN US AND EGYPT.

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